

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Application No.: 10/723,731

Filed: November 26, 2003

For: Method for Utilizing Fragile Watermark  
for Enhanced Security

Examiner: A. Johns

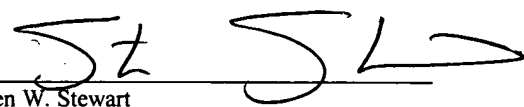
Date: March 16, 2006

Art Unit: 2621

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on March 16, 2006, as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

  
Steven W. Stewart  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
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Sir:

Introductory Comments:

This paper is responsive to the March 1, 2006 Office communication requesting a written description showing for the claims.

Claims 1-6 were originally copied from or substantially similar to claims 1 and 3-7 to published U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002-0176114 A1, filed March 1, 2002 ("the Zeller application").

We see through PAIR that the Zeller application is now abandoned, seemingly removing potential interference issues.

At the time of the abandonment, the outstanding final rejection used the published version of this application (10/723,731) as the primary reference (i.e., US 2004-0190751 A1). We have cited this information in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement for the Examiner's convenience.

We respectfully request entry of the following amendments and an early notice of allowance.